

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-44 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 23-28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 40, and 43 are currently amended. Support for the present amendment is deemed to be self-evident from the original specification. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Declaration was objected to; the drawings were objected to; the specification was objected to; Claim 23 was objected to; Claims 23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Seguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,380,653); Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Seguchi in view of Dade et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,783,893, hereinafter “Dade”); Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Seguchi; Claims 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Seguchi in view of page 14, lines 1-23 of the present application; and Claims 24, 26-28, and 33-44 were objected to, but indicated as including allowable subject matter).

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Claims 26 and 34 are hereby rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent Claims 26 and 34, and all claims dependent thereon, be allowed. Further, regarding allowable Claims 24, 28, 33, and 35-44, as Applicants believe that amended independent Claim 23, from which these claims depend, includes allowable subject matter, allowable Claims 24, 28, 33, and 35-44 are maintained in dependent form at the present time.

Applicants note that Claim 23 is amended, in part, to recite “an additional air gap,” “a first air gap,” and “a second air gap” to clarify that three different air gaps are recited therein.

Support for these three air gaps can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 12, lines 6-10, at page 15, lines 27-29, at page 16, lines 25-28, and in Figure 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

Regarding the objection to the Declaration in section 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, Applicants note that an inventor declaration by inventor Paul Alex Romagny was filed with the Declaration indicating that the filing date of priority PCT Application No. PCT/FR05/50057 is January 31, 2005. Additionally, Applicants note that the Application Data Sheet filed in this application also lists the day, month, and year of filing of the PCT application. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the Declaration is proper and respectfully requests that the objection to the Declaration be withdrawn. However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner to derive a mutually acceptable solution to this objection.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Figures 1 and 2 are hereby amended to recite "BACKGROUND ART." Additionally, Claim 30 is hereby amended to recite that "the output rotor is disposed around an input rotor." Support for this amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 25, lines 25-28 and an exemplary embodiment of this feature is shown in Figure 3. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to the specification, Applicants note that line 5 on page 4 of the original specification recites "Patent AU 5840173..." Further, Applicants have not amended this section of the specification. Thus, the reference to U.S. Patent No. 5,840,173 in the published version of this application appears to be a PTO error. Further, Applicants believe that the Official Record in this application currently recites "Patent AU 5840173." Accordingly, Applicants believe that no correction on the part of Applicants is required.

However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to resolve this objection to the specification.

Regarding the objection to Claim 23, it is noted that the term “in a form of a second magnetic circuit or of a second yoke” previously recited on lines 10 and 11 is hereby deleted. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claim 23 be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections and traverse these rejections, as discussed below.

Claim 23 is hereby amended to include a portion of the claim language from allowable Claim 24. Specifically, amended Claim 23 recites, in part, an electromagnetic coupler, comprising “a first electric machine comprising a first stator having an axis bearing at least one first coil wound on an annular first fixed yoke having an axis and a U-shaped traverse cross-section.” Accordingly, as can be seen in the exemplary embodiments shown in Figures 3, 4, 6, 7, and 9, the first fixed yoke has a U-shaped traverse cross-section and an annular shape. It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 23.

Seguchi describes a first stator 210 including a cylinder-shaped magnetic core 212 and a three-phase winding 211 wound in the core 212.¹

However, it is respectfully submitted that Seguchi does not disclose or suggest “a first electric machine comprising a first stator having an axis bearing at least one first coil wound on an annular first fixed yoke having an axis and a U-shaped traverse cross-section.”

Instead, as can be seen in Figures 1 and 2 of Seguchi, the cylinder-shaped magnetic core 212 of the first stator 210 only has U-shaped *radial* cross-section, and a cross-section of

¹ See Seguchi, at column 3, lines 17-25 and in Figure 2.

the stator 210 does not have a U-shaped *traverse* cross-section. Thus, the cylinder-shaped magnetic core 212 described in Seguchi has a different configuration than the claimed first fixed yoke. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the device in Seguchi could not be modified such that the cylinder-shaped magnetic core 212 has a U-shaped traverse cross-section without changing the principle of operation of the device described in Seguchi.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Seguchi does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 23. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 23, and Claims 25 and 30 which are dependent thereon, as anticipated by or unpatentable over Seguchi be withdrawn.

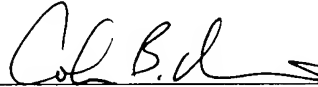
Regarding the rejection of Claim 29 as unpatentable over Seguchi in view of Dade, it is noted that Claim 29 is dependent on Claim 23, and thus is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 23. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Dade does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Seguchi. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 29 is patentable over Seguchi in view of Dade.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 31 and 32 as unpatentable over Seguchi in view of page 14, lines 1-23 of the present application, it is noted that Claims 31 and 32 are dependent on Claim 23, and thus are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 23. Further, it is respectfully submitted that nothing in page 14, lines 1-23 of the present application cures any of the above-noted deficiencies of Seguchi. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 31 and 32 are patentable over Seguchi in view of page 14, lines 1-23 of the present application.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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